the number of cases pending in that office;

(d) whether his Ministry are going to reconsider its decision regarding the rate of Rs. 50/- per Kg. load which was introduced in 1992 when the new Act was introduced; and

(e) when his Ministry have increased rate of their fares and also the rate of their eatable items, why the rate of compensation claim which was fixed at Rs. 50 per Kg. has not been increased?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The following targets for settlement of different type of claim cases on Zonal Railways have been laid down:—

Claims for non-delivery of wagons/ complete consignments	: 6 months.
Partial non-delivery of complete packages	: 4 months.
Shortage/damage/ breakage etc.	: 3 months.

(b) and (c) Yearwise position of new claims registered, decided and pending on Northern Railway is given below:—

Year	No. of new claims registered	No. of claims settled	No. of cases pending
1992-93	49293	57205	7624
1993-94	47252	55282	6561
1994-95	42132	48845	6384
1995-96	45142	50539	5722
1996-97	37072	45633	3851

(d) and (e) There is no such proposal under consideration at present.

Tender for railway wagons

*50. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI: SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have issued a tender for procuring 25,000 wagons for 1997-98 ignoring the public sector Wagon India Ltd.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Decontrol of Oil Sector

*51. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to fully decontrol the oil sector in the country by the end of the century; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

*For statement please refer to the statement annexed to the answer of starred question 41.